

week as an assistant manager for the Pearl Ice Cream Parlor at 207 Pearl Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The La Crosse community is fortunate to have an old-fashioned ice cream parlor such as Pearl's. I cannot think of a better place to bring my two sons, Johnny and Matthew, on a warm summer evening to enjoy their special homemade ice cream and candy.

Oscar, his son TJ, daughter-in-law Michelle and their daughters always offer a warm greeting to customers that walk through their door. Moreover, for several years I have had the pleasure of living down the block from the ice cream parlor on historic Pearl Street, allowing me to frequently stop over for my favorite homemade chocolate ice cream, a convenience that has put considerable pressure on my belt line.

The work that Oscar, TJ, and Michelle do in the La Crosse community helps make western Wisconsin a special place to live and to raise a family.

In addition to Oscar's work at the ice cream parlor, he has contributed significantly to our country and local businesses in Wisconsin. During World War II, he was a Marine sergeant in the Pacific Theater. After the war, he managed the A & P grocery store in La Crosse for 21 years and then became a real estate agent until 1993.

It is apparent that service to our community has always been important to Oscar Peterslie. He remains active in numerous community activities and services as a member of the La Crosse Masonic Temple, Badger Lodge number 345. He is also widely known as a Shriner's clown, brightening the faces of both young and old as he works the parades with his infamous 3-foot harmonica.

Mr. Speaker, may everyone learn from the service and dedication shown by this noble and honorable man, Oscar Peterslie, Wisconsin's Outstanding Older Worker for 2003. Oscar has made a difference in the La Crosse community and created a chocolate ice cream addiction I do not think I will ever be able to break.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1078

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1078.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

#### CONGRATULATING THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE CHAMPION DETROIT SHOCK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Women's

National Basketball Association Championship team the Detroit Shock. Last night, over 22,000 people came to our stadium in Auburn Hills and watched the women's national basketball team win the championship in beating the two-time champions Los Angeles women's team.

I just want to say how important Title IX is in the rearing of these young women all over America who participate in women's sports and how important it is.

I want to commend Bill Laimbeer, the coach of the team, and for bringing them forward and to bringing another spirit to our team.

So you go get them, women. We are proud of you all over the country. Let us move forward the Women's National Basketball Association that will give young women opportunities to move forward and have the confidence they need to tackle the problems of the world. Congratulations to you, Detroit Shock. We look forward to your next year. You go, girls.

#### UPDATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to address disturbing developments in the Middle East, including setbacks on the Israeli-Palestinian road map, as well as new information on serious efforts to undermine peace and threaten American troops.

Mr. Speaker, despite international efforts to corral his influence, it is no secret that Yasser Arafat continues to exert enormous influence over the Palestinian government. Israel has come to grips with Arafat's ability to derail the peace process and recently issued a decision to take steps to remove Arafat from power.

In response, several Arab Nations yesterday introduced a resolution at the United Nations aimed to condemn Israel for this decision to thwart these efforts. The United States was forced to use its veto power and reject the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the world must recognize that Arafat is a roadblock to peace and that no peaceful settlement is a possibility between Israelis and Palestinians as long as he remains in power. I commend my government and specifically U.N. Representative John Negraponte for recognizing the threat Arafat poses and the importance of Israel's decision and then vetoing the damaging U.N. resolution.

Unfortunately, while the U.S. diplomatic corps was working yesterday to support Israel and her interests, the Bush administration or at least it has been reported, Mr. Speaker, that the Bush administration announced it would reduce loan guarantees to Israel. This reported decision comes in protest to Israel's decision to build a barrier wall to prevent suicide bombers from

crossing into Israel from the West Bank.

□ 1730

This is a careless decision by the administration and only undercuts Israel's authority and ability to protect its citizens from suicide attacks.

Furthermore, the loan guarantees will allow Israel to rebuild after years of violence and economic decline and are critical to Israel's future.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the report of this decision by the administration is either not accurate or, if it is, it is a decision that would be reversed. Because I do think it is a tremendous mistake; and I would oppose, and I hope that my colleagues in the Congress would oppose, any cut back in the low guarantees as suggested.

In related Middle East news, evidence has surfaced that Syria is continuing its efforts to incite violence against Israel and is turning a blind eye to Islamic militants who slip across Syrian borders to kill American soldiers in Iraq.

Yesterday, during testimony before a House Committee on International Relations subcommittee, U.S. Under secretary of State for Arms Control John Bolton reiterated concerns that Syria refuses to cooperate with U.S. forces in the Middle East and has continued its support of terrorist groups in pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

However, Under Secretary Bolton stopped short of recommending specific punitive action against Syria. When questioned by Members of the subcommittee, Under secretary Bolton stated that the administration has "no opinion" on legislation introduced here in the House that would place economic sanctions against Syria.

While I commend Under secretary Bolton for his strong statements on Syria, the administration cannot stand by and continue to allow Syria to harbor and support terrorists without economic penalty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to step forward and throw his support behind H.R. 1828, which is a bipartisan bill I have co-sponsored along with Democrats and Republicans, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act. This legislation holds Syria accountable for its actions and would give the President the tools to impose penalties on Syria unless it corrects its behavior immediately.

The Bush administration must show Syria that there are consequences for supporting terrorism and undermining peace in the region.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge the Bush administration to continue to serve as a strong ally to Israel both at the U.N. and here at home. It is critical to our role in the region that the United States maintain its steadfast support of Israel and efforts to protect Israeli citizens from harm and terrorism. And as part of that role, the United States must take decisive action against Nations who seek to corrode peace talks and promote violence

against American soldiers stationed in Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FEENEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM (SHARPSBURG), SEPTEMBER 17, 1862, "THE BLOODIEST DAY OF THE CIVIL WAR"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to commemorate the single bloodiest day in American combat history—the Battle of Antietam—September 17th, 1862. We are a product of our history and we can learn a lot from this terrible day in 1862.

On this day 141 years ago, nearly 100,000 Americans met at Antietam creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland. In a battle that lasted less than twelve hours, over 23,000 Americans lay dead or wounded.

More than twice as many Americans were killed or mortally wounded in combat at Antietam as in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Spanish-American War combined. Amazingly more Americans were killed or wounded at Antietam than on June 6, 1944—D Day on the Normandy beaches in World War II.

	Union	Confederate	Total
Killed .....	2,100	1,550	3,650
Wounded .....	9,550	7,750	17,300
Missing .....	750	1,020	1,770
Total .....	12,400	10,320	22,720

#### CHRONOLOGY OF THE BATTLE—WHAT HAPPENED

On September 17, Union Major General George McClellan confronted Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Sharpsburg, Maryland. At dawn, Hooker's Corps mounted a powerful assault on Lee's left flank. Attacks and counterattacks swept across Miller's cornfield and fighting raged throughout the day around the Dunker church. After repeated delays a Union corps under Burnside finally got into action and attempted to cross the stone bridge over Antietam creek and roll the Confederate right.

Union General Ambrose Burnside's corps of 12,000 men tried to cross the 12 foot wide

bridge over Antietam creek for 4 hours. About 450 Georgian sharpshooters took up positions behind trees and boulders on a steep wooded bluff overlooking the bridge. Greatly outnumbered the Confederates drove back several Union advances toward the bridge.

#### CONFEDERATE EYEWITNESS: BURNSIDE BRIDGE

Lieutenant Theodore T. Fogle, 2nd Georgia Infantry: "At a bridge on the Antietam Creek our Regiment and the 20th Ga., in all amounting to not over 300 muskets held them in check for four hours and a half and then we fell back only because our ammunition was exhausted, but we suffered badly, eight cannon just 500 yards off were pouring grape shot, shell and canister into us and our artillery could not silence them. We held our post until Major William Harris ordered us to fall back. Our Col. (Col. Holmes) . . . was killed about half an hour before. . . .

"We went into the fight with only 89 muskets and had eight officers and 35 men killed and wounded. So many of the men were shot down that the officers filled their places and loaded and fired their guns."

After horrific losses the union forces finally punched through and moved on Sharpsburg. But General McClellan had hesitated too long, allowing General Lee to consolidate his vulnerable forces and counterattack into Burnside's flank and rear. McClellan then hesitated once again, failing to pursue a retreating Lee. The opportunity for total victory was gone.

The Union's General McClellan hesitated many times that day. He lacked the courage to accept short term sacrifice even when it meant the long term salvation of the nation. As a result, the Confederate Army escaped that day and the war lasted another three bloody years.

This day in history reminds us that decisive leadership can save lives, end wars and prevent future attacks.

Today, we must continue to recognize that the survival of our nation is again challenged. President Bush and our military leaders have shown that they have the courage to face the reality of our world.

Last Friday at Fort Stewart Georgia President Bush said: "We are not waiting for further attacks on our citizens. We are striking our enemies before they can strike us again. Wars are won on the offensive—and America and its friends are staying on the offensive."

By taking the fight to our enemies we are diminishing our foes, securing our people and building the hope of people across the globe.

We owe the security of our nation and our way of life to the hosts of Americans who have unselfishly served and died. We are blessed to have those soldiers in our ranks once again and we are blessed that their leaders understand what is at stake for the nation and the world.

#### IRAQ PRINCIPLES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to begin the Congressional Black Caucus's Special Order to address the President's proposal to spend an additional \$87 billion for the war in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, since the President addressed the Nation on September 7 regarding the war in Iraq, the Congressional Black Caucus has carefully evaluated the current state of where we are in Iraq and established a set of principles that we believe should be our guide as we move forward.

Before I get into the substance of our principles, I want to recognize the diligent work of the Congressman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) for his leadership in drafting these principles and working very carefully with other members of the caucus to come to consensus. He willingly took on the task of synthesizing and framing the views of 39 Members of Congress. That is not an easy task. The Congressman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) handled it masterfully. I also want to thank all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus who helped us to get where we are today. It truly was a team effort.

Mr. Speaker, in October of last year, the Congressional Black Caucus issued a statement of principles with respect to any decision to go to war with Iraq. Although most of us were prepared to support broad-based international action sanctioned by the United States National Security Council, we opposed the unilateral first strike by the United States without first receiving clearly demonstrated evidence of an imminent threat of attack upon the United States.

At that time the Bush administration had not presented us with the evidence that we needed, both constitutionally and morally, to support its plan. It has not done so, I must note, to this day.

We argued last year that absent clear evidence of an imminent threat to the people of the United States, a unilateral first strike against Iraq would undermine the international moral authority of the United States that is so critical in our struggle against terrorism.

We were deeply apprehensive that the Middle East would be destabilized, that unilateral U.S. action would commit this Nation to a long-term and, perhaps, indefinite foreign engagement that would cost America dearly both in American lives and in national resources.

Last year's concerns have now become this year's harsh realities, realities that we must face as a Nation and that we must overcome.